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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/751,361
		Filing Date	01/05/2004
		First Named Inventor	Axel Bumann
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	4965-000172

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) <i>(please identify below):</i> English translation of International Preliminary Examination Report; and postcard.
Remarks		The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.		Attorney Name Christopher M. Brock	Reg. No. 27313
Signature				
Date	May 14, 2004			

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Typed or printed name	Christopher M. Brock	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 075 467 US (5/14/2004)
Signature		Date	May 14, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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EV 406 075 467 US

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1026P100WO - VH/bj	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP2002/006680	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 June 2002 (18.06.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 05 July 2001 (05.07.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61C 8/00, 7/00, 7/28		
Applicant ALTATEC MEDIZINTECHNISCHE ELEMENTE GMBH & CO. KG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I Basis of the report

II Priority

III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

IV Lack of unity of invention

V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

VI Certain documents cited

VII Certain defects in the international application

VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 06 December 2002 (06.12.2002)	Date of completion of this report 04 November 2003 (04.11.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2002/006680

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____ 1-17 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____ 1-11 _____, filed with the letter of 15 September 2003 (15.09.2003)

 the drawings:

pages _____ 1/3-3/3 _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: _____ which is: the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 02/06680

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-02/03880 (LEE Jong-Suck; PARK Young-Chel (KR)) 17 January 2002 and priority document KR-Y-207 524 (LEE Jong-Suck; PARK Young-Chel (KR)) 15 December 2000.

2. D1 discloses (see page 4, line 4 to page 5, line 7, figures):

an orthodontic implant system for the mobilisation of teeth, said implant system comprising an implant (30) with a shank (31) that can be implanted into a jawbone and a head (33) that adjoins the shank, said head being provided with securing means (33a) for fixing at least one elongate tensioning or retaining element (41) on the head, wherein the retaining means have at least one elongate recess (33a) that is formed on the head and extends substantially transversely or obliquely relative to a longitudinal axis of said shank, said recess (33a) being open at least one longitudinal end to receive a section of at least one tensioning or retaining element.

/...

The subject matter of Claim 1 differs from the implant system of D1 by virtue of a curing or curable adhesive mass for fixing at least one tensioning or retaining element in at least one recess and by virtue of the fact that the depth of the slot is sufficient for at least two tensioning or retaining elements to be received within the slot, one on top of the other.

The problem addressed by the present invention can be regarded as that of designing an improved implant system that requires fewer implants. The solution according to Claim 1 has the technical effect that more than one tensioning or retaining element can be received and secured in one implant, and, thus, more than two teeth can be secured with only one implant, thereby reducing the number of implants required.

In so far as Claim 1 is clear (see point 4. below), this solution to the problem is not obvious for a person skilled in the art, nor is it disclosed in or derivable from the prior art.

3. Claims 2-11 are dependent on Claim 1 and thus likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.
4. Claim 1 fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 6 in so far as the subject matter for which protection is sought is not clear since Claim 1 refers to a slot that is first defined in Claim 2.